

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 12, as follows:

In step 370, the agent 212 sets the next router interface address ~~is set to~~ R_j and checks for asymmetry in step 374. As will be appreciated, asymmetric paths can arise in some routing protocols, such as Open Shortest Path First or OSPF, when the metric for one direction of a link is not the same for the reverse direction. This results in packets sent from node A to node B being forwarded through a different set of routers than packets sent from node B to node A. Such paths are undesirable in general for real-time communications, as the delay/packet loss/jitter characteristics for the return path of a packet may be substantially different to that for the outbound path. Detection of asymmetric paths can be performed given access to each router's routing tables. If an outbound path from node A contains a segment between first and second routers, the routing table of the second router is examined to ensure that for packets destined to node A, the next hop is the first router. Accordingly, the agent 212 accesses the baseline topology 216 and finds the entry for the address of agent 212 in the routing table of the selected router.